

# U.S. Pacific Command

*Presence with a Purpose*

December 2011

[www.pacom.mil](http://www.pacom.mil)



*"We see the strategic risks as shifting. Demographics are shifting, economic power is shifting, military power is shifting...It is incumbent on us as military leaders to discuss with and advise as to how we should adjust ourselves to these strategic shifts."*  
-- Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey discussing the process of shaping the DOD budget with columnist David Ignatius, Dec. 12, 2011.

This UNCLASSIFIED product is designed to inform our audiences about U.S. military activities that support U.S. Pacific Command's mission of protecting and defending, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, the territory of the United States, its people, and its interests. With allies and partners, U.S. Pacific Command is committed to enhancing stability in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression, and, when necessary, fighting to win. Items below provide key examples of the ongoing engagement and military presence the United States has in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **STRENGTHEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

- U.S. Pacific Air Forces held a final planning conference in preparation for Cope North 12 Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Cope North is a field training exercise conducted annually at Andersen AB, Guam, with the theater support package fighter/continuous bomber presence unit deployed at Guam. This year's exercise is tri-lateral; conducted with Japan, Australia and United States forces. The FTX focuses on practicing operations, techniques and procedures, and enhancing the interoperability among the services.  
<http://www.andersen.af.mil/photos/mediagallery.asp?galleryID=6774>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dI8h9-NYK\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dI8h9-NYK_E)
- Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and III Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a bilateral humanitarian and disaster relief staff table top exercise in Phnom Penh, Cambodia Nov. 30 - Dec 9. The event focused on bilateral military crisis action planning and consequence management in the wake of a natural disaster.  
<http://khmerization.blogspot.com/2011/12/cambodia-us-start-another-joint.html>
- The 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Steering Group meeting between the U.S. and Indian Air Forces was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Dec. 5 - 7. Representatives from the two forces discussed and prioritized opportunities for collaborative efforts between their forces for the upcoming year.
- Royal Thai Marines and elements of the III Marine Expeditionary Force conducted a bilateral staff table top exercise in Utapao, Thailand Dec. 5 - 16. The event focused on the fundamentals of the Marine Corps planning process with an emphasis on headquarters-staff planning exercises for future bilateral exercises and operations by the U.S. and Thai Marines.
- U.S. Pacific Air Forces held an initial planning conference for Operation Pacific Angel 12-4 Dec. 5 - 9 in Pokhara, Nepal. Pacific Angel is an annual series of U.S. Pacific Command-directed humanitarian assistance and capacity building missions complimenting PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP. Pacific Angel promotes regional interagency interoperability among U.S. military, non-governmental organizations, host nation and multilateral military/civilian participants. Capacity building is realized through the execution of concurrent medical health services outreach, engineering civic action projects and subject matter expert exchanges with multilateral military and civilian participants. <http://www.pacaf.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123259853>
- The guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) arrived in Langkawi, Malaysia, Dec. 6 to represent the U.S. Navy at the Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) 2011. Curtis Wilbur joined more than 36 warships and vessels from 30 countries for LIMA '11, which is billed as the premier defense and enforcement exposition in Southeast Asia.  
<http://www.c7f.navy.mil/news/2011/12-December/003.htm>  
<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/Pages/PortCall.aspx>
- Bangladesh hosted U.S. officials Dec. 8, 2011, in opening of a multipurpose cyclone shelter and school in Cox's Bazar. Ambassador Dan Mozena, USAID Mission Director Richard Greene and Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, U.S. Army Pacific commander, visited Cox's Bazar to see disaster preparedness and food security projects funded by the U.S. government and built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- Twenty-four senior executives from 21 countries and one international organization completed the Transnational Security Cooperation (TSC) course Dec. 9 at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu. They included military and civilian leaders from Afghanistan, ASEAN, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. <http://www.apcss.org/twenty-four-senior-executives-complete-transnational-security-cooperation-course/>
- From Dec. 12 - 17, members and aircrews from the 36th Wing at Andersen AB, Guam, and the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota AB, Japan, conducted the 59th annual Operation Christmas Drop to over 50 Micronesian Islands. In addition to gifts donated by local residents in Guam, this year's airdrop training and humanitarian mission featured medical supplies intended to help the island of Pagan cope with an emerging outbreak of Dengue Fever.
- Medical personnel from Fleet Surgical Team (FST) 5 hosted 25 Royal Cambodian Navy and armed forces health care providers for a medical facilities tour aboard amphibious transport dock USS New Orleans (LPD 18) Dec. 16, as part of the Cambodian Marine Exercise (MAREX 12). MAREX 12 was a multi-day theater security cooperation exercise between the U.S. and Cambodian military, designed to share expertise related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response.

### **PROTECT ACCESS TO THE COMMONS**

- The fast attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 1 for a scheduled western Pacific deployment Dec. 1. This is the first deployment for the Virginia-class submarine North Carolina. [http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=64120](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=64120)
- The USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, which includes Carrier Strike Group 9, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9, and Carrier Air Wing (CAG) 2, and the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), got underway from Naval Station Everett Dec. 7. The deployment will be to the western Pacific Command and Central Command areas of responsibility, culminating in Lincoln's eventual change of homeport to Newport News, Va. Lincoln Carrier Strike Group will focus on maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts while deployed, both of which help establish conditions for regional stability. CSG-9, DESRON 9 and CAG 2 will be joined by the guided-missile destroyers USS Momsen (DDG 92) and USS Sterett (DDG 104) and guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71).
- The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) returned to Sasebo, Japan on Dec. 8 after completing a two-and-a-half month patrol of the western Pacific.
- The Carl Vinson Strike Group arrived in the 7th Fleet area of operations Dec. 14 as part of their deployment to the western Pacific and U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. While in the 7th Fleet, the Strike Group will conduct routine exercises with their allies and partners and visit ports around the region.
- The fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Dec. 14 for a scheduled western Pacific deployment. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usnavy/6538054049/>
- The Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Albuquerque (SSN 706) arrived in San Diego Dec. 15 after a six-month deployment to the western Pacific. The deployment supported the nation's maritime strategy, which includes forward presence, sea control and power projection. During the deployment, which covered more than 40,000 nautical miles, Albuquerque executed missions vital to national security and participated in major naval exercises. The ship's port visits included Brisbane, Australia; Yokosuka, Japan; and Guam.

### **MAINTAIN MILITARY READINESS**

- The "Screaming Eagles" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 1 arrived in Misawa Dec. 1 for a six-month deployment to Naval Air Facility Misawa. VP-1 is the first P-3 Orion squadron to deploy to Misawa since 2007. Their arrival heralds a return to normal operations for both Naval Air Facility Misawa (NAFM) and the P-3 community. [http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=64179](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=64179)
- The 8th Fighter Wing of Kunsan AB in Republic of Korea conducted an "Elephant Walk" (a fundamental training element when preparing for worldwide missions) featuring dozens of F-16 Falcon fighters assigned to the wing and a theater support package from Hill AFB, Utah, Dec. 2. The Elephant Walk showcased Kunsan AB aircrews' capability to quickly and safely prepare and generate aircraft for a wartime mission.
- The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) held a Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) course for 32 participants from the 11th Marine Regiment Civil Affairs, Camp Pendleton, California on Dec 5 - 7. The HART course focuses on improving the military's international disaster

response by providing practical information and training on how to work with the international humanitarian community. <http://www.coe-dmha.org>

- Sailors aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) participated in a series of Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) exercises Dec. 5, as the ship continued on its current deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.
- Sailors and Marines of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit simultaneously conducted Cambodian MAREX 12, Singapore MAREX 12, and Exercise Kilat Eagle in Malaysia Dec. 12 - 21. Cambodian MAREX 12 included bilateral visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS), a mass casualty response drill, an engineer civic action project (ENCAP) and a jungle-operations subject matter expert exchange at the Ream Naval Base, Sihanoukville, and Peace Keeping Operations Training Center near Phnom Penh in, Cambodia. Singapore MAREX included a field training exercise and air combat maneuvers conducted in Singapore and its air space.
- In Naha, Japan, Sailors from the 'War Eagles' of Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 met with fellow maritime patrol professionals from the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) to strengthen their working relationship Dec. 16. VP-16 commanding officer, Cmdr. Brad Rosen, met with the commanding officer of the JMSDF VP-5 Capt. Akira Ichida, exchanged gifts and sat down to familiarize themselves prior to the next few months of combined operations.

## **U.S. LEADERSHIP FOCUS ON THE ASIA-PACIFIC**

*"The U.S.-Australia alliance is 60 years old and is committed to regional security and stability. The Marine rotational force in Darwin is a bilateral initiative at the invitation of the Australian government and is designed to improve interoperability between our forces and enhance the security of the region."* –Lt Gen Duane D. Thiessen, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, during an interview with Global Defence Weekly, 19 December 2011.

*"The purpose of my visit has been to deepen the U.S. Army's commitment to the security of the people of this great country - and in particular, the relationship between our two Armies. I am confident that the seeds of a long and enduring friendship are being planted here, in Cox's Bazar."* -- General Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski, Commander U.S. Army Pacific, remarks in Panerchara, Bangladesh, Dec. 8, 2011.

*"Today the U.S. and Japan are strong partners who work tirelessly together to promote peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Pacific Air Forces, along with all components of U.S. Pacific Command, regularly exercise with Japanese forces to ensure interoperability - which we saw so effectively demonstrated by the U.S. response in Operation TOMODACHI earlier this year, when more than 6,000 of our PACAF Airmen supported Japanese relief operations after their earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant issues."* –Gen. Gary North, Commander Pacific Air Forces, remarks prior to 70th Anniversary Attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 6, 2011.